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## IDENTITY IN A TANGLE

Opium Smuggling  
Case Creates  
Trouble.

'FRISCO PAPERS  
MAY BE INVOLVED

An Attack on Office of High  
Chinese Official in  
Honolulu.

(Special to the Advertiser.)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 28.—One of the most curious mistakes and apparent mixups of identity, and one which might seriously involve certain newspapers here, seems to have resulted from the action of the customs authorities of Hawaii in examining into imports of opium alleged to have been made illegally by some one connected with the Chinese consulate in Honolulu.

To begin at the beginning, as far as I know, the San Francisco papers, on June 24, published dispatches from their Honolulu correspondents, stating that Yang Wei Pin, Chinese consul at Honolulu, had been charged with smuggling opium. The Chronicle's dispatch was as follows:

HONOLULU, June 17.—Collector of Customs E. R. Stackable is investigating charges of opium smuggling made by the Bow Wong Wui, or reform element of Chinese, against the imperial Chinese consul, Yang Wei Pin.

It was claimed that he had been using the position of consul and the courtesies extended to him on that account to carry on a big system of opium smuggling, though the opium never passed directly through his hands, but through the hands of some of his attaches. For a week or more past, the collector has been taking the depositions of many prominent Chinese merchants here, and all the reputed opium dealers. So far the testimony is said to tend to connect Consul Yang with the smuggling, or being cognizant of the smuggling of 14,000 tins of opium during the past year.

The Examiner had the following:

HONOLULU (T. H.), June 17.—Charges of a highly serious character are being heard against the Chinese imperial consul, Yang Wei Pin, by the collector of the port. The charges, if proven correct, are likely to be the cause of considerable international diplomatic correspondence between Secretary of State Hay and the Chinese government. Yang Wei Pin is charged by his own countrymen with having been engaged in a systematic scheme for months past to smuggle opium into the Hawaiian Islands, and, according to the latest advices on the subject, his connection with the entrance of 10,000 tins of opium had been charged.

The charges which were preferred against the consul are but a part of a long series of attacks which have been made upon him by members of the Bow Wong Wui, or "reformers" faction in the Hawaiian Islands. The consul represents the conservative element among the Chinese, and ever since his appointment to this post, he has been the object of the attack of the more radical of his race. Party feeling has run very high and the disputes between the two factions have been aired in the courts as well as the local American press.

The charges were preferred some months ago. The Bow Wong representatives alleged that Yang Wei Pin was using the consular courtesies accorded him by the government to smuggle opium into Honolulu. The matter was laid before the local collector, and he in turn apprised the State Department of the rumor. He was directed not to concern himself any further with the matter. When the charges were preferred it was recalled that shortly after the arrival of the consul at Honolulu an order had been received from the State Department directing the local collector to extend the usual courtesies accorded foreign diplomats and refrain from searching the baggage of Yang Wei Pin. The Bow Wongs did not despair, however, and some months ago they laid formal charges with Secretary of State Hay. It is understood that it was represented to the State Department that the most positive proof of the guilt of the consul in using the consular prerogative for smuggling could readily be secured. In fact the names of certain prominent Chinese merchants of Honolulu were given to Secretary of State Hay. The charges were of so serious a nature that Secretary Hay was unable to ignore them, and he communicated with the Treasury Department and requested that a thorough investigation be made at Honolulu.

Yang Wei Pin is directly under the orders of Minister Wu Ting-fang at Washington, and it is more than probable that the minister will shortly take a hand in the matter.

On June 25, the day following the publication of these Honolulu dispatches, the Chronicle printed a portrait of Consul Yang Wei Pin, with the following explanation of the Bow Wong Wui feud, which I wrote:

The news that charges of smuggling opium into Hawaii have been preferred against Yang Wei Pin, Chinese consul at Honolulu, has created excitement among the local Chinese. The charges are the culmination of a bitter feud between the consul and the working class of Chinese in Hawaii, which has already resulted in several deaths, and which dates back to the time of the seizure of the throne of China by the Empress Dowager.

When Leung Chi-tso, the brilliant young member of the Emperor's cabinet, was saved from the vengeance of the Empress in the coup d'état by the intervention of Marquis Ito of Japan, he fled to Hawaii and there began a propaganda against the Empress. He organized the Bow Wong Wui, or Emperor's Protective Association, and with reform as his battle cry enrolled five-sixths of the entire Chinese population of Hawaii. All were pledged to work and if necessary fight for the restoration of Kwang-Hsu, and for the broad-

ening of individual rights in China. Consul Yang Wei Pin denounced the Bow Wong Wui as a highbinder association and prevented its obtaining a charter until after annexation. He and Vice-Consul Goo Kim Fui waged a strong fight against Leung Chi-tso and his society. Li Hung Chang had set a price of \$65,000 on the head of Leung and in Hawaii he was guarded night and day by a half dozen devoted attendants.

Yang Wei Pin and Goo Kim Fui accused the Bow Wong Wui members of trying to assassinate them, and the consul's house was guarded for many days and nights. Later the consul was accused of sending to the Chinese government the names of members of the Wui that their relatives might be punished in the Oriental way. Many of these relatives were imprisoned and a number beheaded. The consul admitted that he had sent a list of the members, and said it was his duty to do so, as the Wui was conspiring against the Empress.

Ever since then the Bow Wongs have sought the undoing of Yang Wei Pin, and have employed the time and talents of some of them in maintaining a strict watch over the doings of their enemy. This watch has culminated in the charges that the consul has smuggled many thousands of tins of opium into Hawaii under cover of his consular privilege to bring in articles for his personal use free of duty and without examination. An investigation has been begun and the Chinese of Hawaii and of San Francisco are rejoicing in what they hope is the undoing of their enemy. The Bow Wong Wui has thou-

(Continued on page 4.)

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